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Mr. A. Parasurama Rao :—" May I know, then, if it is not necessary to give them licences, so that when they have to pass through forests, they may guard the remittances ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I am afraid I should be intruding on my hon. Friend's subject."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " There is no necessity at all."

Criminal Tribes

Action taken on the resolution regarding the transfer of the Kallar reclamation work to Revenue authorities.

*234 *Q.*—Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what action the Government have taken or propose to take with regard to the resolution lately passed in the Council on 27th February 1928 that the Kallar reclamation work at Tanjore may be transferred to the Revenue authorities from the Police Department ?

A.—The Government have decided not to take any action as it is impracticable to give effect to the resolution.

Rajakumar S. N. Dorai Raja :—" May I know the reason why the Government consider it impracticable to give effect to the resolution ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " The reasons why Government have not given effect to the resolution are mentioned in my speech during the debate."

Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja :—" May I know why it is impracticable ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " I have given those reasons in my speech."

Depressed Classes

Alleged hardships of Villiyars in Chingleput district.

*235 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state, with reference to question No. 252 answered on the 14th March 1927—

(*a*) whether the Government have received complaints that innocent persons belonging to the ' Villiyar ' class are still harassed in many villages in the Chingleput district by the village officers and police officers ; and

(*b*) whether the Government will consider the advisability of taking immediate steps to free those innocent persons from the hardships they suffer ?

A.—(*a*) No.
(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" Are the Government aware that under the pretext of watching these people, they are being harassed even in the day time when they have to earn their bread ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " I am not aware of it."

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Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" In view of the answer given on the 14th March 1927, may I ask the hon. Member to make enquiries ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " I do not remember what the question referred to by the hon. Member is. I shall just enquire."

Emigration

Labourers from Madras working in the Assam plantations.

*236 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the information which the Government possess regarding the number of coolies from Madras now working in the Assam plantations ;

(b) their conditions according to the latest information available to the Government ; and

(c) whether the Government will consider the desirability of sending a non-official deputation there to study and report on the conditions of Madras labourers there ; and if not, why not ?

A.—(a) The number of coolies working in the Assam plantations for the year ending 30th June 1926 was reported to be 53,615. During the year 1926-27, 11,376 persons were recruited. The Government have no information as to the actual numbers now working in the plantations.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The Government do not consider that there is any necessity at present to adopt the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (c) of the question, in view of the fact that there are more than half a lakh of labourers working in Assam plantations, may I know the reason why the Government do not consider it necessary to send a non-official deputation to study and report on the conditions of the labourers there ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " We cannot send a deputation to Assam unless there is reason to suspect that there is something wrong there."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if the Government have any means, through official agencies at least, of knowing the conditions of these labourers ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Yes, we have."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Are the Government satisfied, Sir, that those conditions are such as not to call for any enquiry ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " The Government are satisfied, Sir."